(c) the steps being taken by Government to boost tourism and attract foreign tourists to the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) :

(a) Yes, Sir

(b) The Conference of Chief Ministers and Tourism Ministers was convened to discuss and obtain the views of the State/U.T. Governments on the draft National Tourism Policy.

(c) Various steps taken by the Government to boost tourism and attract foreign tourists to India include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resources development, use of information technology and encouraging private investment in tourism sector including hotels.

Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. A reorientation in marketing efforts is also being made by focussing on markets in South East Asia and emphasising the significance of domestic tourism.

Tourist Inflow

*303 SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there has been steep downfall in International tourism which has adversely affected tourist inflow to our country;

(b) if so, the assessment made by Government for the last two years as compared to earlier years;

(c) the approximate loss in foreign exchange therefor; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to improve tourist inflow in the coming two years ?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) There has been positive growth of 5.2 per cent and 6.4 per cent in the foreign tourist arrivals during the years 1999 and 2000 as compared to the corresponding previous years. However, there has been a decline of 4.8 per cent

during January—November of the current year as compared to the same period of the previous year.

(c) There has been a marginal growth of 0.5 per cent during January to November, 2001 as compared to the same period of the year 2000. However, there has been a decline of 18.8 per cent in foreign exchange earnings during the months of September, October and November, 2001 as compared to same period of previous year.

(d) Various steps taken by the Government to improve tourist inflow in the country include development and improvement of tourist facilities, publicity and marketing efforts in the foreign countries through overseas tourist offices, strengthening institutions of human resources development, use of information technology and encouraging private investment in tourism sector including hotels.

Efforts have also been made to send appropriate signals to countries all over the world that India is a safe destination. A reorientation in marketing efforts is also being made by focussing on markets in South East Asia and emphasising the significance of domestic tourism.

ENRON's withdrawal from Panna and Mukta oil fields

*304. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE :
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether M/s Enron as Operator have disposed off their Share from Panna and Mukta oilfields;

(b) if so, the value at which the same has been disposed off;

(c) the value at which ONGC had disposed off 60 per cent of its shares in the above oilfields to M/s. Enron and Reliance combine;

(d) the amount invested by Enron so far in the oilfields before disposal of its share; and

(e) the amount of oil produced by Enron during the production sharing contract with ONGC ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) and (b) Till date, Enron as operator has not disposed off its participating interest share in Panna and Mukta oilfields.